

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a client device, a method comprising:
receiving a request for playback of digital audio or video content stored on the device,
wherein the requested digital audio or video content is included within a particular body of content comprising a plurality of digital audio or video contents accessible by the client device;
determining an allotted playback duration [[for]] granted to the device for playing back the particular body of content;
determining an elapsed playback duration for the device, the elapsed playback duration representing an amount of time previously consumed by the device while rendering the digital audio or video contents of the particular body of content;
determining whether a predetermined relationship between the elapsed playback duration and the allotted playback duration [[for]] granted to the device is satisfied; and
regulating playback of the particular body of content ~~at least the requested digital audio or video content~~ if the predetermined relationship between the elapsed playback duration and the allotted playback duration [[for]] granted to the device is determined to be satisfied.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the request for playback of digital audio or video content is received via a user input device.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein playback of the requested digital audio or video content track is denied if it is determined that the relationship between the allotted playback duration and elapsed playback duration is satisfied.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
facilitating playback of the requested digital audio content if it is determined that the elapsed playback duration does not exceed the allotted playback duration.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
indicating to the user at least one of the elapsed playback duration and the allotted
playback duration.
7. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
indicating to the user the elapsed playback duration in relation to the allotted playback
duration.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the digital audio or video content is
encoded in accordance with at least one of an advanced audio encoding algorithm, an
adaptive multi-rate encoding algorithm and an MP3 encoding algorithm.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
denying playback of the requested digital audio or video content if the elapsed playback
duration added to a run length associated with the requested content exceeds
the allotted playback duration.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
denying playback of additional digital audio or video content stored on the device in
addition to the requested digital audio or video content if it is determined that the
elapsed playback duration is equal to or exceeds the allotted playback duration.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the allotted playback
duration is determined based upon rights intrinsic to the device.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the allotted playback duration
is determined based upon data received from [[the]] a content rights server.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
periodically increasing the allotted playback duration prior to the allotted playback
duration exceeding the elapsed playback duration.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the allotted playback duration is
increased based upon entitlements granted to the user by a service provider.

15. (Currently Amended) In a digital content rendering device, a method comprising:
rendering one of a plurality of digital audio or video content items within a particular
body of content;
determining an elapsed playback duration for which the digital audio or video content of
the particular body of content has been rendered; and
regulating further content rendering of the particular body of content by the digital
content rendering device if the elapsed playback duration satisfies a
predetermined relationship with respect to an allotted playback duration granted
to the device for playing back the particular body of content.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the elapsed playback
duration represents [[by]] an amount of time for which content of the particular body of
content has been rendered by the digital content rendering device.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein regulating comprises
denying further content rendering of the particular body of content by the digital content
rendering device if the elapsed playback duration satisfies a predetermined relationship
with respect to the allotted playback duration.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the allotted playback
duration represents at least one of an amount of render time for which content of the
particular body of content may be rendered on the digital content rendering device, and

a quantity of data that may be processed by the digital content rendering device to render content of the particular body of content on the device.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising:
facilitating playback of the digital audio content of the particular body of content if it is determined that the elapsed playback duration does not exceed the amount of render time corresponding to allotted playback right.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) In a digital content rendering device, a method comprising:
identifying a playback right ~~associated with~~ granted to the digital content rendering device representing an allotted measure of a plurality of digital audio or video content within a particular body of content that may be rendered by the digital content rendering device;
determining whether the allotted measure of content for the particular body of content has been rendered by the device; and
preventing further content rendering from the particular body of content on the digital content rendering device if it is determined that the allotted measure of digital audio or video content for the particular body of content that may be rendered by the digital content rendering device has previously been rendered by the device.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the allotted measure of the plurality of digital audio or video content within the particular body of content that may be rendered represents an amount of time that the digital content rendering device may render the digital audio or video content of the particular body of content.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the playback right associated with the digital content rendering device is further associated with a user, and wherein the user is denied playback of any additional content items by the digital content rendering device once it is determined that the allotted measure of digital audio

or video content for the particular body of content that may be rendered by the digital content rendering device has previously been rendered by the device.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the playback right is determined based upon a subscription agreement between the user and a content provider.

26. (Currently Amended) A digital content rendering apparatus comprising:
a storage medium having stored therein programming instructions designed to enable the apparatus to
receive a request for playback of digital audio or video content stored on the apparatus, wherein the requested digital audio or video content is included within a particular body of content comprising a plurality of digital audio or video contents accessible by the apparatus,
determine an allotted playback duration [[for]] granted to the apparatus for playing back the particular body of content,
determine an elapsed playback duration for the apparatus, the elapsed playback duration representing an amount of time previously consumed by the apparatus while rendering the digital audio or video contents of the particular body of content,
determine whether a predetermined relationship between the elapsed playback duration and the allotted playback duration [[for]] granted to the apparatus is satisfied, and
regulate playback of the particular body of content ~~at least the requested digital audio or video content~~ if the predetermined relationship between the elapsed playback duration and the allotted playback duration [[for]] granted to the apparatus is determined to be satisfied; and
at least one processor coupled with the storage medium to execute the programming instructions.

27. (Currently Amended) A digital content rendering apparatus comprising:
a storage medium having stored therein programming instructions designed to enable
the apparatus to
render one of a plurality of digital audio or video content items within a particular body of
content,
determine an elapsed playback duration for which the digital audio or video content of of
the particular body of content has been rendered, and
regulate further content rendering of the particular body of content by the digital content
rendering apparatus if the elapsed playback duration satisfies a predetermined
relationship with respect to an allotted playback duration granted to the digital
content rendering apparatus for playing back the particular body of content; and
at least one processor coupled with the storage medium to execute the programming
instructions.

28. (Currently Amended) A digital content rendering apparatus comprising:
a storage medium having stored therein programming instructions designed to enable
the digital content rendering apparatus to
identify a playback right ~~associated with~~ granted to the digital content rendering
apparatus representing an allotted measure of a plurality of digital audio or video
content within a particular body of content that may be rendered by the digital
content rendering apparatus,
determine whether the allotted measure of content for the particular body of content has
been rendered by the apparatus, and
prevent further content rendering from the particular body of content on the digital
content rendering apparatus if it is determined that the allotted measure of digital
audio or video content for the particular body of content that may be rendered by
the digital content rendering apparatus has previously been rendered by the
apparatus; and
at least one processor coupled with the storage medium to execute the programming
instructions.

29. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having stored thereon machine executable instructions, the execution of which to implement a method comprising:
receiving a request for playback of digital audio or video content stored on the device,
wherein the requested digital audio or video content is included within a particular body of content comprising a plurality of digital audio or video contents accessible by the client device;
determining an allotted playback duration [[for]] granted to the device for playing back the particular body of content;
determining an elapsed playback duration for the device, the elapsed playback duration representing an amount of time previously consumed by the device while rendering the digital audio or video contents of the particular body of content;
determining whether a predetermined relationship between the elapsed playback duration and the allotted playback duration [[for]] granted to the device is satisfied; and
regulating playback of the particular body of content ~~at least the requested digital audio or video content~~ if the predetermined relationship between the elapsed playback duration and the allotted playback duration [[for]] granted to the device is determined to be satisfied.

30. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having stored thereon machine executable instructions, the execution of which to implement a method comprising:
rendering one of a plurality of digital audio or video content items within a particular body of content;
determining an elapsed playback duration for which the digital audio or video content of the particular body of content has been rendered; and
regulating further content rendering of the particular body of content by the digital content rendering device if the elapsed playback duration satisfies a predetermined relationship with respect to an allotted playback duration granted to the device for playing back the particular body of content.

31. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having stored thereon machine executable instructions, the execution of which to implement a method comprising:

- identifying a playback right ~~associated with~~ granted to the digital content rendering device representing an allotted measure of a plurality of digital audio or video content within a particular body of content that may be rendered by the digital content rendering device;
- determining whether the allotted measure of content for the particular body of content has been rendered by the device; and
- preventing further content rendering from the particular body of content on the digital content rendering device if it is determined that the allotted measure of digital audio or video content for the particular body of content that may be rendered by the digital content rendering device has previously been rendered by the device.